

koussou, the mesenna, and the habi-tehogo are almost the only anthelmintics employed by the Abyssinians.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.*, July, 1861, from *Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, April 30 and May 15, 1861.

13. *Ergot of Wheat*.—Some of the practitioners at Claremont-Ferrand, in Auvergne, have of late substituted the ergot of wheat for that of rye with advantage. It is larger, rounder, and harder than the rye, and its odour is less disagreeable. Attracting moisture also far less than the ergot of rye, it retains its activity after being powdered for a longer period.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, July 20, from *Gaz. Hebdom.*, No. 28.

14. *Ferri Carbonas Effervescens*.—DR. THOMAS SKINNER, of Liverpool, believing that the proto-carbonate of iron is one of the best of the chalybeates, thought it desirable to obtain it nascent, and in a soluble form, and recommends for this purpose the following formula:—

R.—Acidi tartarici  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij; Sodæ bicarbonatis  $\mathfrak{z}$ v; Ferri sulphatis  $\mathfrak{z}$ x; Pulveris sacchari  $\mathfrak{z}$ j; Acidi citrici  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij.

1. Mix the sulphate of iron with the sugar and part of the tartaric acid. 2. Mix the citric acid with the remainder of the tartaric acid and the bicarbonate of soda. 3. Add the mixtures, and thoroughly incorporate them by sifting. 4. The whole is now to be thrown into a metallic pan set in a water bath; in a few minutes it will separate, when it should be rapidly stirred until granules are formed. If preferred, it may then be flavoured with the oil of lemon; hitherto, however, the preparation has been without it.

*Physical and other Properties*.—When the above is carefully prepared, it has all the appearance of the popular and well known granular effervescent citrate of magnesia, with the addition of a slight yellowish green tint. Every drachm and a half contains ten grains of sulphate of iron, which, with a complement of bicarbonate of soda, is certain to produce, in a state of solution, four grains of nascent protocarbonate of iron. At the same time, there is developed a tartrate with a little citrate and sulphate of soda, which is, if anything, an advantage, as they act the part of a very gentle saline aperient, obviating the usual astringent effect of preparations of iron, as well as the too frequent constipation attending cases requiring chalybeates, particularly amongst females. The taste of it depends very much upon the amount of dilution. When taken in the dose and manner hereinafter recommended, the taste is that of a mild, sparkling, and refreshing chalybeate.

After the effervescence subsides, a perfectly clear, light-green solution remains, which, if allowed to stand for some time, becomes of a deeper green colour on the surface, gradually increasing from above downwards, and floating like a cloud upon the upper stratum of the liquid. This appearance was at first mistaken for oxidation, but the more correct explanation seems to be that it is the carbonate of iron which was retained in solution by excess of carbonic acid gas; that, as the excess escapes from the surface, the carbonate separates from the solution in the form of a fine cloud, and becomes ultimately precipitated in the form of an impalpable powder. So far as permanency is concerned, the preparation has stood the test of several months, and it now remains as good as the day when it was made.

*Dose, Uses, Mode of Administration, etc.*—The dose is a teaspoonful, more or less (about a drachm or a drachm and a half), twice or thrice a day, in half a tumbler or more of water, an hour after, between meals, or upon an empty stomach, as is found most suitable. Dilution, within reasonable bounds, increases the tolerance of the remedy and favours its therapeutic action. It may be drank during the action of effervescence, but it seems to me preferable immediately after it subsides. When a prolonged course of iron is required this preparation will never take the place of the protosulphate, the iodide, or the sesquichloride; but where a moderate course of a few days, or a week or two, is necessary, it will be well borne by the stomach. It is not only well borne, but it seems to produce a much more manifest chalybeate effect within a given time and in a smaller dose, than any other preparation of iron with which I have had experience.

In facial or other forms of neuralgia, arising from anæmia or other cause re-

lievable by iron, and particularly if the bowels are at all torpid, a few doses often act like a specific. It ought, however, to be continued after the pain disappears, so as entirely to remove the condition upon which the neuralgia depends. I may remark that the quantity of iron, and the aperient effect might be doubled if required; the present proportions, however, have been found by experience to be the best for ordinary purposes.—*British Med. J.*, June 15, 1861.

15. *Sinapisms made with Glycerine*.—M. GRIMAUDT recommends the following formulæ: Pure glycerine  $3\frac{1}{2}$  drachms, starch 5 drachms, and volatile oil of mustard 20 drops; and M. Chevallier publishes the following formula for what he terms *Plastic Sinapisms*: Volatile oil of mustard 20 drops, white pitch 15 drachms. Having melted the pitch, remove it from the fire, stir in the volatile oil, and spread on leather. By the addition of 10 per cent. of resinous oil the mass can be spread on linen like ordinary adhesive plaster. For use a piece can be cut off according to the size of the part to which the sinapism is intended to be applied. The effect is very speedy, and the proportions of the active principle may be varied.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, July 20, from *Journal de Chimie Méd.*, June.

## MEDICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

16. *Treatment of the Fever in the Zambesi*.—Dr. McWilliam read to the Epidemiological Society (June 3, 1861) a note from Dr. D. LIVINGSTONE, dated Tetete, Nov. 28, 1860, on the treatment of this fever.

"In 1850 I adopted the plan of giving quinine, mixed with a purgative, as the first step of the treatment, and was successful in the cases of two of my own children, and an English party whom we found at Lake Ngami, and of whom one had died before our arrival. I have lost the notes of my reason for adopting the practice, but I have been successful in every case I have met with since. The prescription employed is resin of jalap, calomel, of each eight grains, quinine c. rhubarb, of each four grains, mix well together, and when required make into pills, with spirits of cardamom. Dose from ten to twenty grains. The violent headache, pains in the back, etc., all are relieved in from four to six hours, and with the operation of the medicine there is an enormous discharge of black bile; the patient frequently calls it blood. If the operation is delayed, a dessert-spoonful of salts promotes the action. Quinine is then given till the ears ring, etc. We have tried to substitute other purgatives instead of resin of jalap and calomel; but experiments have only produced the conviction that aught else is mere trifling. No strength is lost in our march up the river of 600 miles on foot. An European would be stricken down in one day, and the next after the operation of the remedy would resume his march on foot. In some very severe attacks it was necessary for the patient to travel on a donkey, but after two or three days he would prefer to tramp it. We tried Warburg's tincture, which has a great reputation in India, but it causes profuse sweating, and does not cure the disease: the strength is also impaired. We had a good supply, by the kindness of one of our nobility, but I am compelled to say that it did not answer our expectations. The daily use of quinine is no preventive. We have seen many cases occur when the person was on the verge of cinchonism. I employed the foregoing remedy with success on the west coast, but made no fuss about it more than to make a general statement in the *Missionary Travels*. I was not quite sure that our fever was identical with that Dr. McWilliam encountered in the Niger, but the melancholy fate of a party of six missionaries at Linyanti, where six out of nine Europeans and four native attendants perished in the short space of three months, makes me fear that it is the same complaint as that which destroyed the officers of Commodore Owen in the Zambesi, those of Captain Tuckey, in the Congo, and the crews of the great Niger Expedition in that river. My companions, Dr. Kirk and Mr. C. Living-